



The Snare

Take heed to yourselves lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting and drunkenness and cares of this life and that day comes upon you unawares.

For as a snare shall it come upon all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth...

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The events of the end times (as described here in Luke and in Matthew and Mark) will come so suddenly upon the World, that our Lord compares it to a Snare.

This is actually a common theme in the Scriptures and is assuredly what our Lord is referring to (see also, Ps 91, 124, 141, Pr 7:23, Ec 9:12, Is 8, 24, 28, Ez 12:13, Hos 5, 9, 1 Tim 6:9, Am 3 etc), and is basically the same as the symbolism of the Dragnet for Fishes and the Pit that the Blind fall into and the Gin and Snare which the Fowler uses to catch the Eagles in. All of these devices spring shut suddenly on the animal leading, in most cases, to their doom.

This view alone strongly supports the Pretribulational Rapture and certainly a Mid Tribulation Rapture over the Prewrath or the Post Tribulation Rapture view for by the end of the Tribulation everyone is going to know that the jig is up.

The mid trib would make more sense to a certain extent because that is when the Antichrist is suddenly revealed at the Abomination of Desolation *and the Mark of the Beast is instituted which could be considered a type of snare*, however, if (as the passage implies) the Lord is referring to all the events portrayed in the Olivet Discourse, then the only view that can possibly apply is, in fact, the pretribulational Rapture.

This is emphasized in the above context for our Lord goes on to admonish us to, once again, watch and pray that we be accounted worthy to escape all these things (so MJ Agee - see Ps 124 above, etc) which, obviously, includes the Snare.

Of course the Philadelphians are promised to escape the Hour of the Snare and not just the Snare itself which again supports this.

But further is the passage in Thessalonians about the Restrainer.

Obviously, a snare is restrained until the animal trips it off and the symbolism is obviously referring to the same event (*when he who now 'lets' steps out of the way*). This is supported in the context itself, where the word 'lets' and 'withholds' is 'katechio' and is assuredly where we get the word 'catch' from.

In other words a Snare is Restrained by a Catch.

Further the word "taken" out of the way is 'ginoma' and reminds one of the above mentioned Gin which is a stone weight for the net of the fowler (*not to mention fishing tackle*) and means "to cause to be." The snare springs shut so quickly that it is better described as the catch being caused to be out of the way, like it was never there.

And regardless of the meaning that has been attached to the word Apostasy (anciently and in modern times) the word is from Apo (from) and Stasis (way or stand - it denotes position). Hence the Catch is taken out of the way, which fits perfectly the context of the passage (as opposed to 'fallen away' from the faith, though this will also undoubtedly occur during the tribulation (*and has actually been recorded to have started in the US with the new millennium by [Gallup](#)*)).

And this will be fulfilled in many Christians lives - those who don't Watch and Pray, and very well may be the meaning of the passage in Hosea, "The Prophet is the Snare of the Fowler" for those who teach any other view then pretribulational, if they are wrong (notice above he said "at any time" i.e. pretribulation), they (and those who listen to them) will be left behind and caught in the Snare when the Restrainer is taken out of the Way. When the Holy Spirit steps aside and the Watching Church Escapes the Snare and is Hidden in the Secret Place (Ps 91) of the Stairs.

The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse immediately spring upon the World when the Lion breaks the Seals (itself a Removal that Restrains the Scroll) and further indicates that the Rapture occurs previous to this which subsequently unleashes the Snare on the entire World.

So, the Lord Jesus Christ has come in the Flesh and is coming again, very very soon! Watch and Pray at all times that you may be accounted worthy to escape the Snare!

Editor's Note : September 25, 2007 :

Point is, in fact, that there is a hidden timing clue involved is this for a snare is used for trapping which, when it is done for food as was the case anciently, has a specific season.

That would be winter...